

## Message Text

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21

ACTION PPTE-00

INFO OCT-01 NEA-09 ISO-00 SCA-01 SCSE-00 /011 W

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R 250900Z MAR 75

FM AMEMBASSY ALGIERS

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 2163

UNCLAS ALGIERS 0777

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: CPAS, AG

SUBJ: AUTHORIZATION FOR AMCONSULATE ORAN TO ISSUE PASSPORTS

1. FOLLOWING INSPECTION OF AMCONSULATE ORAN, FOREIGN SERVICE INSPECTORS SUGGESTED, THOUGH DID NOT FORMALLY RECOMMEND, THAT ORAN BEGIN ISSUING PASSPORTS. WE HAVE REVIEWED THEIR SUGGESTION, AGREE WITH IT AND PROPOSE DEPARTMENT AUTHORIZE ORAN TO DO SO BEGINNING CONSULAR YEAR 1976.

2. ORAN CONSULAR DISTRICT WAS RECENTLY MORE THAN DOUBLED IN SIZE AND NOW ENCOMPASSES APPROXIMATELY HALF OF ALGERIA'S GEOGRAPHIC AREA. MORE IMPORTANTLY, LAST FOUR YEARS HAVE SEEN ITS RESIDENT AMERICAN POPULATION CLIMB FROM 150 TO 700, PRIMARILY AS RESULT OF MUNEROUS CONSTRUCTION CONTRACTS SIGNED BETWEEN VARIOUS ALGERIAN STATE COMPANIES AND PRIVATE US FIRMS. MOREOVER, NUMBER OF AMERICANS IN ORAN DISTRICT WILL CONTINUE TO INCREASE AS NUMBER OF NEW PROJECTS GET UNDERWAY; AMCON ORAN, FOR EXAMPLE, ESTIMATES AN AMERICAN POPULATION OF APPROXIMATELY 1,000 BY MID-1976.

3. TO DATE, NEW AND REPLACEMENT PASSPORTS FOR AMERICANS IN ORAN DISTRICT HAVE BEEN ISSUED FROM ALGIERS WITH ORAN EITHER SENDING APPLICATIONS AND RECEIVING NEW PASSPORTS VIA REGISTERED MAIL OR HAND-CARRYING BOTH TO AND FROM ALGIERS ON BIWEEKLY COURIER TRIPS. SINCE BOTH METHODS OFTEN RESULT IN WAIT FROM TWO TO THREE WEEKS TO OBTAIN PASSPORTS, WE ARE CLEARLY NOT PROVIDING ADEQUATE SERVICE TO LARGE AND GROWING AMERICAN COMMUNITY IN

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WESTERN ALGERIA.

4. FOLLOWING DEPARTMENT'S APPROVAL, WE WILL PLACE ORDER  
FOR PASSPORT TYPEWRITER AND CAREFULLY REVIEW WITH  
AMCON ORAN ALL PASPORT PROCEDURES AND REGULATIONS. IN  
ADDITION TO PROVIDING ORAN WITH SUPPLY OF BLANK PASSPORTS,  
WE ASSUME SCA/PPT WILL ALSO PROVIDE POST WITH  
PASSPORT PHOTOGRAPH LEGEND MACHINE STAMPL.  
PARKER

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